

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by chairman Mark Makuch at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Mark Makuch, Christina Mailhos, Christine Psathas, Herb Arico, Teri Gareau
Laurie Semprebon, Leo Mercado, Superintendent David Harding

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Hannah Makuch, HMS seventh grade student, spoke about a program to change how students think of fruit and vegetables by growing a community garden. She handed out information about the program and read quotes about its success in other areas. She explained about the sustainability and the positive learning experience of growing your own food, farming and agriculture can have on students with a low start up cost of \$3.00 per participant to cover seeds, fertilizer and tools.

PRESENTATION:

Board presented Mary Bowen with a plaque for the Board of Education Citizenship Award she received at the June Graduation Ceremony, reading her bio and her speech to students from graduation night.

HMS principal Deb Sullivan introduced the new staff members, Rebecca Pilver and Kyle Dunnack to the Board.

CES principal Colin McNamara introduced new staff member Lauren Catalano to the Board. Food Service Director, Beth Gankofskie, gave an overview of the lunch program and budget including explanation of last year's profit of \$3,819.00. She explained the new point of sale system, PowerSchool/PowerLunch and its advantages. She answered various questions from the Board.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to add Agenda Item D of Bus Transportation to New Business.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Herb Arico, to add Agenda Item E of Superintendent Goals to New Business.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported on the bus break down on the first day of school. As a result of the ensuing chaos he has implemented the use of the emergency phone system by bus roster

being implemented. He reported on the President's speech to students with the principals acting appropriately sending opt out letter for parents and instructing the staff not to use any outside curriculum.

He reported on daily monitoring of illness in the schools for both staff and students.

He explained about the CT reports that HMS is needing improvement in sub categories of Special Education and the Economically Disadvantaged. CES did not make AYP in reading for Grade 3 and will be starting the Blue Ribbon testing.

He reported on the credit card meetings and possible program and benefits of different carriers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Superintendent Evaluation Committee met and Superintendent Harding will present goals at next Board meeting.

Facility Committee met and reviewed projects, and invite Ronald Strong to attend next meeting.

Finance Committee met and approved bills for payment.

Herb Arico, Liaison for EastConn Executive Committee, reported previewed service initiatives for 08/09 and future 09/10 highlights with next meeting on September 25, 2009, he handed out an overview of EastConn with CD.

Herb Arico, Liaison for Charter Advisory Committee, next meeting on September 14, 2009.

Herb Arico, member of Region #19 Board, budget schedule in place and building committee met regarding facilities.

Curriculum Committee met with CREC and set up future dates with them.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Christina Mailhos, seconded by Mark Makuch, to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2009 Special Board Meeting.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Christina Mailhos, Christine Psathas,
Leo Mercado, Laurie Semprebon, Mark Makuch
Abstain: Teri Gareau

Motion Passes

Board discussed the bus transportation situation with Superintendent Harding stating he is discussing events and circumstances with the bus company and requesting the information needed concerning maintenance records. Board discussed the HMS principal speaking with children and drivers and CES principal riding on the bus last Thursday.

Board discussed the Superintendent Goals and handed out the addendum and copy of the goals from last year with requests to give feedback to Superintendent Harding this week.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board reviewed the BOE agenda calendar adding subcommittee assignments in December.

Board set dates for Board breakfast at CES on September 29, 2009 at 8am and at HMS on October 7, 2009 at 7am.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board thanked Miss Makuch for her presentation, and the administration for handling all the situations that came up for the opening of school so well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Nichole Page

Recording Secretary